

Flexibility is necessary in rural America. A one-size-fits-all approach will not work. Rural communities must have choices when deciding which technology needs and services best fit their building structure, terrain and educational needs. The federal and state governments should not dictate what a local community purchases. All options for connected learning must remain a local decision.

Again, we emphatically state our support for rural access to technology for learners of all ages. The undersigned associations and organizations support the FCC Federal-State Joint Board recommendations for the Telecommunications Law that offers significant discounts to rural and underserved areas of America.

Sincerely,

American Association of Education Service Agencies
Four State Rural Education Consortium (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas)
Michigan Rural Education Association
National Association of Counties
National Grange
National Rural Education Association
Organizations Concerned About Rural Education
Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools
Rural Schools Education Fund (Maryland)
Small School Districts' Association (California)

cc: FCC Commissioners

**CANISIUS COLLEGE**

2001 MAIN STREET • BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14208-1098

FAX: 716-888-3223

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (ITS)**FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET****TO:**Company Name: FCC

Department: _____

Attention: Bachelle B. Chang, CommissionerFAX Number: 202-418-2828**FROM:**Person: Dr. Joel A. CohenTelephone Number: 716-888-2440Date: 5/1/97Number of Pages (including this page): 2

Remarks:



CANISIUS COLLEGE

2001 MAIN STREET • BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14208-1098

May 1, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Information Technology Services

Telephone: 716-888-2440

Fax: 716-888-3223

Internet: cohen@canisius.edu

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
FCC

MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong:

This is to register our extreme concern about the proposal to increase Subscriber Line Charges (SLC), Pre-subscriber line surcharges (PSL), and the "universal service social agenda obligation fee" for cellular, PCS, and paging services. Such charges will increase the cost of performing scholarly work for students and faculty. The cost of doing business for everyone at the College will increase. The College and its constituencies cannot afford these increases. We do not want these charges to be implemented.

We are also concerned about the proposal to reduce Interstate access charges. The College shares this revenue with its telephone provider. This is an important source of revenue for the College, and helps minimize the net cost of providing voice and data services to Canisius faculty, students, and staff. We want to keep these Interstate access charges at their current levels.

Sincerely,

Joel A. Cohen, Ph. D.

Director of Information Technology Services

West Bountiful School

750 West 400 North
West Bountiful, Utah 84087
(801) 299-2022



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

E. Maynard Whitesides, Principal

April 2, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C., 20054

Received by [illegible]
Office of [illegible]

Dear Commissioner Ness,

As public school teachers, we write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

Educators know that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's children. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the FCC a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

West Bountiful Elem.
(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

Carlene W. Murry

~~Deanna~~
Kathy Scott

Maureen L. Larson

Jolene Elander

Colleen Johnson

Connie A. Anderson

Margie O'Brien

Earle Thornton

Lyle E. Allen

Mary Page

John W. Stevens

Frederick Peterson

Lynn Muehlen

Leona Lakeman

Carol Ziegler

KWM Knowlton

Myra Thornley

PRINCE STREET SCHOOL

400 Prince Street
Salisbury, MD 21804
phone 410-749-6735 fax 410-341-3916

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness
Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

We are faculty and staff from Prince Street School, Wicomico County, in Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

Our county has been fortunate in that a local provider has given our school free access for two years. This is the second year. In order for the schools to maintain this service, monies that might be spent on new access may have to be placed on hold. We have committees in place to write grants to provide as much monies as possible to put computers in every classroom, thus giving internet access to all students.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Faculty and Staff of Prince Street School
(See attached sheet for signatures and addresses.)

APR 30 - 2 08 PM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

PRINCE STREET SCHOOL

400 Prince Street
Salisbury, MD 21804
phone 410-749-6735 fax 410-341-3916

April 28, 1997

I, the undersigned, am in favor of the funding of CC Docket No. 96-45.

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE
4-29-97	Debbre Link	8462 Ascot Place, Delmar, MD 21875
4-29-97	Jacqueline Jones	109 Terrapin Ln. Salisbury, MD 21804
4-29-97	Jeanne Mueller	3862 Devonshire Dr. Salisbury, MD 21804
4-29-97	Jacqueline D. Zuck	11225 Mardele Spring Rd
4-29-97	Marilyn Moreno	211 W. Philadelphia Ave. Salis. MD 21804
4-29-97	Alvina G. McCallister	1704 St. Lukes Rd Salisbury, MD 21804
4-29-97	Michelle B. Shrewes	6300 White Cove Dr. Sal. MD 21804
4-29-97	Marsha M. Richards	28149 Brockhampton Ct. Sal. MD 21804
4-29-97	Patricia Blesana	31899 York Dr, Salis. MD 21804
4-29-97	Ernest Ballenger	737 Hemlock St. Salis. MD 21804
4-29-97	Patricia A. Green	507 Woodcrest Ave. Salisbury, MD 21804
4-29-97	Leona S. Workman	28201 Charter Ct Salisbury, MD 21804
4-29-97	Allison P. Freshwater	301 Hall Drive - Salisbury MD 21804
4-29-97	Perry Borelli	627 Kinner St. Salisbury MD 21804
4-29-97	Patricia A. Victor	5716 Blake Rd. Snow Hill Md. 21863
4-29-97	Gladya Flange	7972 Jersey Rd, Salisbury MD 21804
4-29-97	Etta Johnson	102 Tall Timbers, Fruitland, MD 21826
4-30-97	Jerry Annis-Wright	6323 White Cove Dr. Salis. MD 21804
4-30-97	Christie A. Carter	21420 Nanticoke Rd. Salis MD 21804
4-30-97	Barbara Spina	28307 Canterbury Dr. Salis. MD 21804
4-30-97	Brenda Dennis	26561 Collins Wharf Rd. Eden, MD

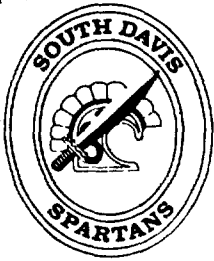
PRINCE STREET SCHOOL

400 Prince Street
Salisbury, MD 21804
phone 410-749-6735 fax 410-341-3916

April 28, 1997

I, the undersigned, am in favor of the funding of CC Docket No. 96-45.

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE
4/30/97	Tristy Chaves	1118 New Bedford Way Salisbury MD 21804
4/30/97	Linda R. Huffman	205 Walnut St. Salisbury MD 21804
4/30/97	H. Lott	605 E Goldborough St. Salisbury MD 21804
4/30/97	Delorach D. Dinkins	36796 Foxlane Dr. Salisbury MD 21804
4/30/97	Sharon Daskell	1103 Russell Ave. Salisbury MD 21804
4-30-97	Deanna Dixon	8102 Colinga Lane Salis Md 21804
4-30-97	Janet Desmore	11504 S. Hills dr. Berlin Md. 21811
4-30-97	Khonda Ellis	102 Elizabeth St. Salis. Md. 21801
4-30-97	Bonnie Dinger	211 Colbourne Mill Rd. Salis Md. 21804
4-30-97	Suzanne Rayne	7312 Levin Daskill Rd., Habor, MD. 21830
4-30-97	Karen Leimann	1304 Taney Ave. Salisbury 21804
4/30/97	Ronald W. Liskowski	510 Druid Hill Ave., Salisbury 21801
4/30/97	Charles J. Ryall	4090 MEADOWBRIDGE RD, Salisbury md 21804
4/30/97	Nailey Delano	205 H. L. Rd. Salisbury
4/30/97	Marilyn K Johnson	110 Oaklee Dr. Freetland Md 21804
4/30/97	Barbara Davis Miles	P.O. Box 2133 Salisbury, MD 21804
4/30/97	Vicky M. Massey	1106 Middle Neck Rd. Salisbury MD 21802
4/30/97	Mama Handy	5785 Royal Mile Blvd. Salis, Md. 21804
4/30/97	Bobby J. Robins	330 M S Morris S
4/30/97	Rubin J. Carter	4845 Cardinal Dr Salisbury Md 21804
4/30/97	Shirley J. Conway	11019 Sharptown Rd. Hardscrabble MD 21837



South Davis Junior High School

298 West 2600 South
Bountiful, Utah 84010
Phone 299-2050
Fax 299-2677

CC 96-48
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
Karyn Bertelsen
Larry D. Smith
Assistant Principal

RECEIVED

April 2, 1997

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20541

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C., 20054

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
APR 10 3 56 PM '97

Dear Commissioner Ness,

As public school teachers, we write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

Educators know that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's children. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the FCC a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

UNIT 10

HAMILTON COUNTY
COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT NO. 10

P.O. Box 369
109 North Washington
McLeansboro, Illinois 62859
(618) 643-2328

CC96-45
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 7, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
STEWART
APR 10 3 36 PM '97

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing in regard to the Federal-State Joint Board's recommended proposal for granting a telecommunications discount rate (e-rate) for schools and libraries. It is my understanding the Federal Communications Commission will vote on this proposal within the next four or five weeks. As an administrator in a rural and financially disadvantaged area, I urge you to support the Joint Board's recommendation which may be our best hope of providing internet connectivity to our children.

Hamilton County Unit 10 is located in Southern Illinois. It is a county-wide district serving a rural area of 350 square miles. We service 1,500 students Pre-K through Grade 12. Our closest access to a major metropolitan area (St. Louis) is a two-hour journey. Our youngsters are thereby often denied the cultural learning activities enjoyed by those living closer to urban centers.

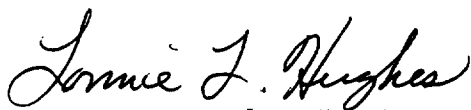
Internet access and other telecommunication proposals such as distance learning represent our best hope of maintaining a link to the world of information otherwise unavailable to us. Yet, despite our great need, access to these opportunities is limited. We have been told because of problems associated with latta lines, it would cost our district between \$1,500 and \$1,900 per month to attain direct line internet access. Indeed, this represents a substantial road block on the information super highway. Our limited budget has enabled us to embark upon a technology plan which is bringing hardware and software to our district. Computers are available in each of our seven attendance centers. But if it will cost us \$1,500 to \$1,900 per month just to attain internet connectivity, we will flounder. With the "e-rate", we could provide internet connectivity to every classroom in the district. What a wonderful day that would be for the children of Unit 10.

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
April 7, 1997
Page 2

Please give us an opportunity to make this dream a reality by supporting the Joint Board's proposal, one that will provide \$2.25 billion to the nation's classrooms where students will most directly benefit from it. I have no desire to be confrontational with any telecommunication carrier. However, our district and thousands of others across the country, need these 20-90 percent rate discounts. We are public entities; we seek no profit other than the inherent rewards in better preparing youngsters for the work force of the twenty-first century.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and your support of the Joint Board's discount plan for public schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lonnie L. Hughes".

Lonnie L. Hughes, Ed. D.,
Superintendent

LLH/dlr

CC 96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
APR 30 3 56 PM '97

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Received by the Federal Communications
Commission

April 2, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C., 20054

Dear Commissioner Ness,

As public school teachers, we write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

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We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

Meadowbrook Elementary
(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

Beatrice Schofield

Shila Stinner

Julie Eckman

Susan Mills

Nancy Frazier

Lot Vandegriff

Charles E. Powers, Jr.

Deane Richardson

Hub M. Flanders

Joan Turner

Carol Melnstrom

Anda Trueman

Christine S. McCullough

Cameron L. Habersen

Colene L. Linn

Rebecca Dibble

Becky Wheeler

Merikay Haskins

Musa Patten

Yaron Schibovsky

Sherry P. Allen

Lloyd H. Hogan

Barbara J. Newfull

Sandy Enman

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

From: Painter, Sue <Sue@MCDS.org>
To: 'sness@fcc.gov' <sness@fcc.gov>
Date: 4/18/97 12:30pm
Subject: FW: Internet discounts for schools

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

>-----
>From: Painter, Sue
>Sent: Friday, April 18, 1997 9:26 AM
>To: sness@fcc.gov
>
>The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
>Federal Communications Commission
>1919 M Street NY
>Room 832
>Washington, DC 20554
>
>Dear Commissioner Ness:
>
>I am Susan Painter, Assistant Head for Development at Marin Country Day
>School, Corte Madera, California, and I am writing to ask for your
>support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for
>schools and libraries. It is essential to the education of this
>generation and those to follow that affordable access to the
>Information Superhighway be available to all students.
>
>The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount
>plan will guarantee that even schools with the most limited resources
>will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide
>distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion per year will bring
>services directly to the classrooms where students learn. Your
>inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as
>is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is
>essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.
>
>We are an independent, nonsectarian, K-8 elementary school serving 500
>boys and girls from San Francisco and Marin Counties. For several years
>we have had a computer "lab" with 20 networked stations to allow
>students in each of our homerooms to work either individually or on
>joint class projects. In the last couple of years demand for Internet
>access has "exploded" on our campus as students conduct research for
>projects in all disciplines, and as we encourage students and teachers
>to communicate with other schools. (Recently this communication brought
>a group of Japanese educators to our school.) We are now in the second
>phase of a technology plan which will connect all of our classrooms as
>well as the library and art studios. This access to the Information
>Superhighway does not "replace" the teacher but allows students to take
>increasing responsibility for their own learning. With today's
>knowledge explosion our schools must help children become lifelong
>learners if they are to become productive and engaged citizens.
>
>Our students, like those at schools all across the country, need deep
>discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to
>fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for
>schools and libraries.
> >Thank you.
>
>Sincerely,
>

>

> Susan Painter

> Marin Country Day School

> 5221 Paradise Drive

> Corte Madera, CA 94925-2107

>

> >

EX PARTE OR LATE ~~POCKET~~ FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 28, 1997

Reed E. Hundt
Chair
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554-0001

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of General Counsel

96-45

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
GENERAL COUNSEL
MAY 1 9 44 AM '97

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the physician groups listed below, which represent over 300,000 individual physicians from across the country, we are writing to urge you to support the full implementation of the "universal service" provisions of the "Telecommunications Act of 1996." As you know, the universal service provisions of the Act mandate the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to direct telecommunications rate subsidies to, among other groups, "rural health care providers." The law explicitly states that the FCC must make telecommunications rates for eligible health care providers and physicians comparable to telecommunications rates for similar services in both urban and rural areas. We strongly encourage you to immediately implement the so-called Snowe, Rockefeller, Exon, Kerrey provisions of the Act because we believe it to be important to the growth of telemedicine and would allow for greater access to health care services in rural and underserved areas.

The Act specifically mandates that telecommunications carriers provide telecommunications services to health care providers serving patients in rural areas at rates comparable to rates in urban areas. In addition, the FCC's own Advisory Committee on Telecommunications and Health Care has stated that the "discounted rate is critical to the success of rural telemedicine, and the comparable urban rate should eliminate differences in urban and rural rates created by distance." As Congress intended, we believe the definition of "rate" should be construed broadly.

Many dedicated physicians and health care professionals provide essential medical services in small private offices, often in remote and isolated areas across the country. In order to be able to continue to provide quality health care services, individuals practicing in rural areas must often pay excessively high long-distance charges just to be able to access Internet and other telecommunications services. The ability to access these and many other services at affordable rate would allow physicians and health care providers to deliver the best health services possible.

We urge you to support the "universal access" provisions of the Act because we believe that these provisions are fair and would improve the quality of health services in many needed areas of the United States.

Sincerely,

American College of Radiology

American Medical Association

cc: James H. Quello, Rachelle B. Chong, Susan Ness, Regina M. Keeney

REC'D
OFF
COMMI
SUSA

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

APR 16 10 10 AM '97

Affordable Telecommunications for Rural American's Coalition
1801 N. Moore St. Arlington, VA 22209 703-875-0759

April 11, 1997

RECEIVED

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, Dc 20554

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RR: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

On behalf of the millions of rural consumers, farmers and ranchers, educators and students who live and work in small towns and communities across America, we respectfully ask you to support the Federal-State Joint Board decision with regard to the affordable access provisions for rural school districts and libraries.

Senators Snowe, Rockefeller, Exon and Kerrey had the foresight to include a technology connectivity provision for rural communities in the Telecommunications Law of 1996. When legislation is passed by Congress in Washington, rural areas are often disregarded when formulas or placements are considered. These Senators were respectful of their rural constituents and included a provision that will help to bring rural America online with our counterparts in suburban and urban areas.

The benefits of this law are substantial. We appreciate that it maintains local control in the selection of technology and telecommunication services; provides deep discounts to school districts, libraries and consortia that are disadvantaged and/or located in remote areas; guarantees the flexibility necessary to create a service mix that addresses local needs; and provides access to the Information Highway for learners of all ages.

The FCC Joint Board issued strong and positive recommendations last fall on how the provision should be implemented. Elements in the plan include: discounts ranging from 20% to 90% based on a school district's eligibility for the national free and reduced lunch count; discounts on all available and forthcoming telecommunications services; discounts for the internal connections and networking necessary for connecting classrooms; and a fund of \$2.25 billion a year to reimburse telecommunications companies for the discounted services they provide.

Flexibility is necessary in rural America. A one-size-fits-all approach will not work. Rural communities must have choices when deciding which technology needs and services best fit their building structure, terrain and educational needs. The federal and state governments should not dictate what a local community purchases. All options for connected learning must remain a local decision.

Again, we emphatically state our support for rural access to technology for learners of all ages. The undersigned associations and organizations support the FCC Federal-State Joint Board recommendations for the Telecommunications Law that offers significant discounts to rural and underserved areas of America.

Sincerely,

American Association of Education Service Agencies

Four State Rural Education Consortium (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas)

Michigan Rural Education Association

National Association of Counties

National Grange

National Rural Education Association

Organizations Concerned About Rural Education

Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools

Rural Schools Education Fund (Maryland)

Small School Districts' Association (California)

cc: FCC Commissioners

Liberty High School
5855 Bartholow Rd.
Eldersburg, MD 21784-8499

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dr. Robert L. Bastress
Principal

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

MAY 1 4 22 PM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN H. HARRIS

RE: CC Docket No.96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As members of the faculty and staff of Liberty High School, Carroll County, Maryland, we wish to express our support for the Universal Service discounts for libraries and schools which have been recommended by the Joint Board.

It is important that libraries and schools have affordable access to the Internet so that everyone has the opportunity to travel the Information Highway. The Telecommunications Act will ensure that all schools, no matter how poor, will be able to connect. The plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students can learn how and where to access information while under the guidance of an informed adult.

At Liberty High School our students have access to the Internet from the Media Center, the writing lab, and data processing lab. However, as our school population is growing rapidly it is important that the opportunities for access continue to expand.

We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Bastress, Principal
John H. Magee
Theresa Allen - Assistant Principal
Kim Adams, Assistant Principal
Marta Carol Meyers
Sandra Sunderland
Henry Adams

Alice M. Carickner
Kath Ann Brown
Donna Mailey
Beggy Kelly Johnson
Mary Johnson
Jusan Brubaker
Flora Griffith

WE SUPPORT THE ATTACHED LETTER

Virginia J. Pihlman	Jean Smyders
Taken Delina	Mary H. Spaul
BRUCE L. RAMASIO	Juan Smith
Miriam Thornton	Peter Zunge
Jim Langford	Cheryl Bobbitt
ad Melnick	Ernest Combs
med	V. C. Hill
Cathy Thomey	Robert L. Greenwood Jr.
Martha C. Speck	Jim Dulin
Helen Derrin	Maciee Agius
Phyllis Greene	Janet H. O'Keefe
Elaine M. Burns	Donald C. Koper
Minnie H. Schaefer	Amelia Flynn
DPH/VA	Daniel J. ...
Michelle Singer	Imanda Hudson
Christine L. Hesk	Joy G. San
Don Furman	Margaret Weiss
Margaret Kelso	Nancy Farrow
Susan Demski	Peggy McCullin
Delma Shicker	Kateleen
Richard Duwall	Barbara Nell
Margaret	Don B. Roth
Marilyn Modeste	Nancy Evers
Janet K. ...	Wynne ...
Brenda A. Alexander	Wynne H. ...
Mac Schaffer	Donald J. ...
Jack ...	Wendy C. ...
St. Donalton	Nora Murray
Ruth ...	Robert E. ...
John ...	Donna B. Jones
Donna J. Boyle	William ...

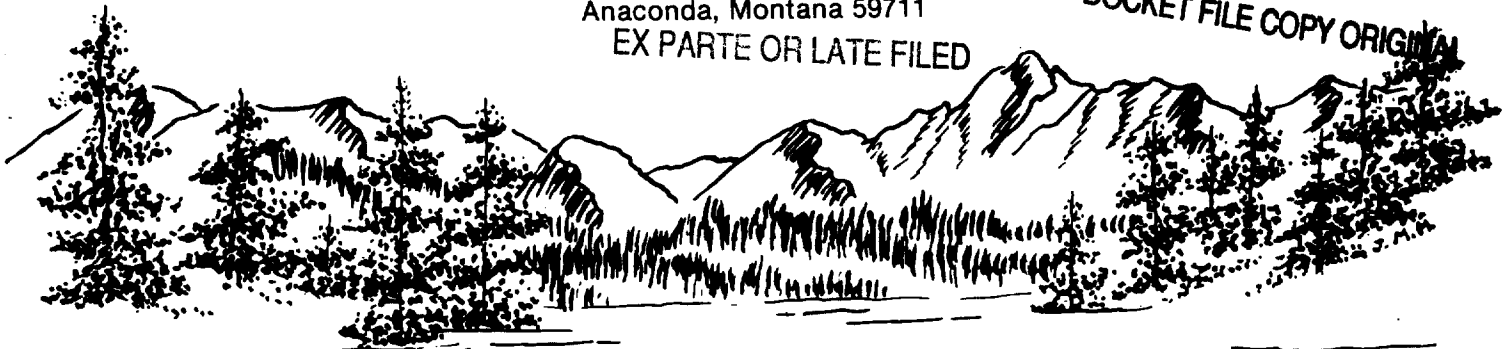
ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY

Courthouse - 800 South Main

Anaconda, Montana 59711

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Superintendent of Schools

Telephone (406)563-8421

Ext. 248

April 23, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 1 1997

Federal Communication Commission
Office of Technology

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commission Members:

I am the County Superintendent of Schools for Deer Lodge County in Montana, and I would like to thank each of you for your efforts to ensure that school districts and educational consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. In rural areas such as ours access to the Information Superhighway connects our students to people and experiences they would not otherwise access.

Our schools in Deer Lodge County have made tremendous strides in introducing technology into classrooms and making computer connected information sources available to every student. However, the increasing costs of these services in a time when school funding is critical makes the continuation of these services precarious at best.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that our school districts will continue to have opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning experiences to our students. The \$2.25 billion per year will address the needs of all schools, and continue efforts to bring these services directly in the classroom where students learn. Including discounts for internal classroom connections needs to remain a corner stone of this plan and this plan is essential to the adequate preparation of tomorrow's work force.

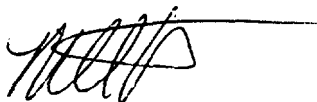
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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

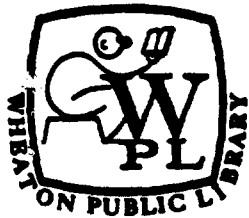
RECEIVED

Our students and schools need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service to schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. O'Rourke", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael O'Rourke MEd, LCPC
County Superintendent of Schools



WHEATON PUBLIC LIBRARY

225 N. Cross St., WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60187

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Telephone: (630) 668-3097

or 668-3097

Fax: (630) 668-1465

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Sarah Meisels, Library Director

April 29, 1997

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MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

MAY 1 4 24 PM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW - Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Re: CC Docket 96045--Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

On behalf of the Library Board of Trustees of the Wheaton Public Library and the residents of the City of Wheaton, Illinois, I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for telecommunications and critical, non-telecommunications services necessary to assure that all public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to living and working in an increasingly information-driven world.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools and libraries that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the country.

Favorable telecommunication rates are extremely important to libraries in order to access for their patrons the wealth of information available on the Internet. Libraries are particularly challenged in this decade, as they must provide both traditional library services and offer access to electronic information sources, all at a time when many library budgets are declining.